seemed more recognisably a human being than Hitler; towards him, therefore, appeasing activities were first directed, and a gentlemen's agreement concluded guaranteeing the status quo in the Mediterranean. It soon became apparent that the gentlemanly contracting parties had different ideas as to what the status quo signified, Mussolini seeing no disturbance of it when Italian troops participated in the Spanish Civil War, or when Italian submarines sank British ships carrying supplies to the Republican Government. It was difficult, indeed, to imagine what, short of draining the Mediterranean and settling Hottentots on the land thus made available, would, in Mussolini's view, constitute an alteration of existing conditions there.

An ungentlemanly agreement, concluded at Nyon, resulted in no more British ships being sunk outside Spanish territorial waters; but Italian intervention in Spain proceeded vigorously, though at Guadalajara in the wrong direction—away from, instead of towards, the enemy. As Lord Halifax later admitted in the House of Lords, Mussolini made it clear from the beginning that, gentlemen's agreement or no gentlemen's agreement, he would not tolerate General Franco's defeat, and would continue to intervene in the Spanish Civil War until his victory was assured.

To continue to appease him in such circumstances was an undertaking which required exceptional faith, if not gullibility; and Mr* Eden's good will, as far as Mussolini was concerned, was exhausted. He, too, must join the little company of discarded Foreign Secretaries; like them, later find his way back

into the Cabinet in another capacity. As far as appeasement was concerned, he had reached the limit of his capacity; but another was waiting whose ardour for appeasement was unquenchable, and faith in its efficacy, unshakable. Lord Halifax succeeded Mr.

THERE WILL BE NO WAR. Like the French king who would not have it that lie must die, and who tried, by avoiding funerals, to avoid death, Lord Beaverbrook would not have'it that there must be a war, and tried, by assuming it would not come, to prevent its occurrence.